



Diana Greene,
Executive Director

A Word from the Director...

It is hard to believe it is that time of year again – time to close out the activities and graduate the current class, as well as time to begin promoting enrollment in the 2006-07 class.

Class XXVI has had an active year. They have been involved in four different assigned community service projects: Save SC Summers, Helping Hands Food Bank, the Horry County Literacy Council, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Training). In addition they have all logged time for other community service organizations as part of their "personal projects" hours. All of us as alumni can feel good about how they have represented us in the field of community service.

Project Group Leaders:

Helping Hands: *Brian Nisbet*. Save SC Summers: *Jason Greene & Brad Richardson*, Horry County Literacy Council: *Theda Jackson & Paul Peeples*, CERT: *Deb Bramlett & Scott Palmer*.

The group has also enjoyed a year of monthly leadership training. This new element has added an interesting element – helping each of these leaders develop a personal leadership plan whose goal is to carry them into the future. We want this LGS experience to be part of a life-long process of leadership and community service growth and I believe this new added element helps bring this vision to life.

The group has given me wonderful input into what aspects of the program have been the most beneficial for them, and working with your board of regents I will now begin finalizing the curriculum elements for our next class, LGS Class XXVII, which will begin in September of 2006 and end in May of 2007.

We are currently accepting applications, and I have outlined the current requirements for incoming class members for you.

Leadership Grand Strand is open to any citizen who has resided in the Grand Strand area for at least one year. Candidates may be nominated by an organization or may nominate themselves. The program is limited to 30 participants, with selection reflecting the demographic, geographic and professional diversity of the Grand Strand. Candidates must reside or be employed in Horry County one year prior to admission.

Criteria for selection includes evidence of leadership abilities, potential to provide leadership to the Grand Strand, interest in community affairs, desire to expand volunteer involvement and commitment to become more involved in the Grand Strand. Participants and their sponsoring organizations must be willing to commit the necessary time to fully participate in this program and regular attendance is imperative and mandatory. Selection will be determined by an applicant's willingness to invest the time required for active participation in the program, which includes a two day retreat at the beginning of the program in September, a full day of classes the first Thursday of each month and the closing session in May.

Applications, which require three letters of reference, are due by June 30, 2006. Applications can be found online at LeadershipGrandStrand.com and are available at any chamber welcome center. Tuition costs for LGS are \$795 per person.

As always, if any of our alumni have questions or comments about the program please do not hesitate to contact me directly at: lgs@mbchamber.org or at 916-7222.



CERT Training

The Leadership Grand Strand Class XXVI mobilized the forces and met once each month for three hours from October 2005 to April 2006 to learn and experience how to assist the Horry County Emergency Preparedness Team should a disaster occur. From extinguishing a fire, to control bleeding, to assessing a disaster and the people involved, to administering CPR, LGS Class XXVI received a crash course from the professionals of Horry County. The project concluded in April with a practical exercise held at the Bayboro facility used to train Horry County Firefighter



and EMS personnel. CERT training provided a wonderful opportunity for the classmates of LGS XXVI to forge even stronger bonds with one another while providing information and knowledge to allow us to step forward and help lead the county in the aftermath of a disaster.

Helping Hand Food Drive

Colleagues from Leadership Grand Strand Class of XXVI came together in support of Helping Hands of Myrtle Beach through active participation in several food drives during the month of March 2006. The drive included: six days (two, three-day weekends) of food drives at Bi-Lo on 38th Avenue North, Chamber Expo food drive at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, employer food drives and neighborhood food drives. More than 10,000 food items and \$2,000 were donated. Through participation in this project, colleagues obtained a greater understanding of the significant needs that are served by Helping Hands of Myrtle Beach.

Milestones

Dee Briggs (Class XIII) has been

elected to serve a three year term on the Vestry for the Episcopal Church of The Resurrection... Charlie Brindel (Class XIV), Executive Vice President of Coastal Carolina Association of REALTORS, has been selected as the Number 1 real estate EVP in the country who is committed to providing community service in addition to and part of his duties. He raises funds for a number of charities and as a licensed auctioneer he volunteers to perform 12 auctions every year... Lisa Davis (Class XXI) announces the birth of baby girl, Amelia Ann "Millie" Davis on February 3rd... David R. Gravely (Class II) is very proud to announce the birth of his second grandson, David William Banks, on February 18, 2006. David was born to Chase and Trevor Banks who reside in Leesburg, Virginia... James Ginley (Class XIV) is happy to let everyone know after 30 yrs in hotels, he's now in the wine business! Since last July, he has been working at Green's Liquors as the wine consultant. Matt Harris (Class XXIII) recently joined the management team of The Ripken Experience as Corporate Partnerships Manager... Deborah Harwell (Class XVI) has been contracted to work on the Southern Evacuation Lifeline being planned by the SCDOT and the FHWA. Harwell is also contracted on the Interstate 73 project. She has Adobe Palm Communications on Professional Drive in Myrtle Beach... After serving on the City of Myrtle Beach Community Appearance Board for 15 years, Sally P. Howard, (Class XIII) has been appointed to the MB Planning Commission... Marie Mitchell - Realtor-Broker Assoc. (Class XV) has transferred her Real Estate License to Keller Williams MB Central Realty located at 2002 Oak St. Also she still has her Rental Company "Marie By The Sea Long Term Rentals"... David W. Powers (Class XXV) has received his bachelor's degree in theology and has also been accepted in the Mensa Society (the society only accepts members in the highest 2% of the IQ range)... Bob Squatriglia (Class IV) has been re-elected to a two year term as a member of the Board of Directors of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, at the Society's recent biennial convention in Washington, D.C. He will also serve as Chair of the Council of Regional Directors, a newly established governance group which will coordinate the activities and leadership of 300+ Circles located on colleges and universities throughout the nation. Bob is Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students, and Professor Emeritus at Coastal Carolina University... Andrea Wood (Class XXI) and her husband, Jackie, welcomed their first son, Jack Thomas, on January 4th.

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The Alumni newsletter is produced twice a year for Alumni Association members. The articles are compiled by committee members.

LGS Alumni Association Social

Thursday, May 4, 2006

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy

In the Restaurant District of Coastal Grand Mall

Admission is free for members of the LGS Alumni Association, non-members and guests will be charged \$20 each.

Includes fajitas, tenderloin, bacon wrapped shrimp, quesadillas, Mexican beer and Sangria.

Please RSVP by Monday, April 27 to lgsalumni@sc.rr.com or by phone at 843.293.6001 ext. 103.

\$5 of all Non-Member/Guest Fees will be donated to the Ann DeBock Scholarship Fund.